

Message Text

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13

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R 062210Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2483

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0716

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FIRST LINE PARA 3

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

REF: STATE 023463

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AUSTRALIAN ACTION ON RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S RETURN FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA ON FEB . 13. AUSTRALIAN EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE ROK HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFFS CALLED FEB 6 AT DFA ON C.R. JONES (ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY, NORTH ASIA BRANCH) FOR RUNDOWN ON CURRENT STATUS OF AUSTRALIAN ACTION ON RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA. JONES MADE IT CLEAR THAT AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S RETURN FROM VISIT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA FEB 13.

3. JONES SAID THAT ROK AMBASSADOR LO SUK CHAN HAD ARRIVED IN AUSTRALIA FEB 4. AND MET WITH MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILLESEE IN PERTH FEB 5. AMBASSADOR LO LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE WITH WILLESEE AND ALSO DELIVERED COPY OF PERSONAL LETTER FROM PRESIDENT PARK TO PRIME
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MINISSTER WHITLAM. JONES HAS NOT YET SEEN TEXT OF

AIDE MEMOIRE AND LETTER, BUT DFA REP IN PERTH TOLD HIM ON TELEPHONE THAT AMBASSADOR LO HAD SAID THAT SOVIET UNION HAD INDICATED TO ROK (NOT CLEAR WHERE CONTACT TOOK PLACE) THAT SOVIETS WERE PREPARED TO INITIATE SOME FORM OF SPORTS OR CULTURAL CONTACT WITH ROK IN APRIL. AMBASSADOR LO SAID THAT ROK WOULD NOT OBJECT TO AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA IF IT COULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL ANTICIPATED SOVIET ACTION OR, ALTERNATIVELY, IF BOTH KOREAS ADMITTED TO UN.

4. JONES SAID THAT DFA WILL ARRANGE FOR AMBASSADOR LO TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO GOVERNOR GENERAL AND TO PRESENT PARK LETTER TO WHITLAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER FEB 13. SINCE TEXT OF PARK LETTER ALREADY KNOWN TO AUSTRALIANS, JONES ANTICIPATED THAT WHITLAM REPLY TO PARK WOULD BE MADE SHORTLY THEREAFTER, FOLLOWING WHICH FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECOGNITION WOULD BE MADE THROUGH NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN JAKARTA.

5. ON AUSTRALIAN CONTACTS IN EASTERN EUROPE, JONES SAID THAT RESULTS SO FAR ARE NOT ENCOURAGING. AUSTRALIANS HAVE HAD CLEAR NEGATIVE FROM POLES ON RECOGNITION OF ROK. YUGOSLAVS HAVE GIVEN MORE NUANCED BUT STILL NEGATIVE REPLY. NO DEFINITE ANSWER SO FAR FROM CZECHS, HUNGARIANS, OR ROMANIANS, AUSTRALIAN APPROACHES TO WHOM ARE IN VARIOUS STAGES OF EXECUTION. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, JONES SAID NO CONSIDERATION HAS RECENTLY BEEN GIVEN TO APPROACHING EITHER SOVIETS OR PRC AGAIN SINCE LAST APPROACHES SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. JONES INDICATED THAT AUSTRALIANS WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY U.S. SUGGESTION ON APPROACHES IN EASTERN EUROPE. EMBOFF NOTED BOTH GERMANIES NOW ARE MEMBERS OF UNITED NATIONS, AND EAST GERMANS MIGHT SUPPORT EQUAL TREATMENT IN INTERNATIONAL SPHERE FOR TWO KOREAS. ALSO, SINCE EAST GERMANS LIKELY TO FOLLOW SOVIET LEAD, EAST GERMANS MIGHT BE WORTH APPROACHING, PARTICULARLY IF SOVIETS ARE ABOUT TO INITIATE SOME FORM OF CONTACT IN SPORTS AND CULTURAL

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FIELD WITH ROK, AS AMBASSADOR LO HAS INDICATED. IT WAS SUGGESTED SUCH CONTACT COULD BE MADE BY GOA TO EAST GERMAN EMBASSY IN CANBERRA.

6. SEEMS CLEAR THAT, WHILE AUSTRALIAN DECISION TO RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE, AUSTRALIA WILL FOLLOW COURSE ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR TO THAT SUGGESTED IN REFTEL AND HAD DECIDED TO DO

SO BEFORE EMBASSY APPROACHED DFA.
HARROP

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